

The House Committee on Transportation offers the following substitute to HR 254:

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that before final implementation of the Lovejoy to Atlanta commuter rail service
2 all the county and municipal governments receiving service shall execute a local project
3 agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation to fund the operating assistance
4 necessary for the continuing operation of the service; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation has been in the process of negotiating
6 an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railroad for implementation of a Lovejoy to Atlanta
7 commuter rail project; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation plans to spend \$106 million of
9 federal and state transportation dollars on this project; and

10 WHEREAS, the county and municipal governments directly served by the line have provided
11 written confirmation to the Georgia Department of Transportation that they will pay future
12 operating subsidies for the line; and

13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation's cost estimates indicate that
14 approximately \$4 million in additional annual operating subsidies will be required after the
15 initial three-year start up period; and

16 WHEREAS, if the county and municipal governments along the line do not provide the
17 necessary operating subsidies, the State of Georgia may be obligated to repay the federal
18 government for the capital funds expended for the project.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 GEORGIA that it is the sense of this body that the Georgia Department of Transportation and
21 the Georgia Passenger Rail Authority should not proceed to final implementation of the
22 Lovejoy to Atlanta commuter rail project without executing a local project agreement with
23 the local county and municipal governments receiving service from the project to fund the

1 operating assistance needed for the period of time necessary to satisfy the federal investment
2 of funds in accordance with Federal Transit Circular 5010.1C Chapter 4 Section 1F.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Transportation will consult
4 with and provide any information requested by the Office of Planning and Budget and the
5 Legislative Budget Office concerning the capital costs, operating costs, operating revenues,
6 and operating assistance for the proposed project.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Department of Transportation in
8 consultation with the county and municipal governments receiving service as a result of the
9 Lovejoy to Atlanta commuter rail project shall agree on a sharing of the required operating
10 assistance as part of the local project agreement.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall deliver
12 a copy of this resolution to the appropriate official of the county and municipal governments
13 along the line of the proposed project; the commissioner of the Georgia Department of
14 Transportation; the Office of Planning and Budget; and the Legislative Budget Office.